

Claims:

1. In a portable communication device operable in a communication system, an improvement of a user interface apparatus for facilitating viewing display indicia thereat by a visually-impaired user said user interface apparatus comprising:

5 a display screen having a first screen portion and at least a second screen portion, the first screen portion for selectably displaying a first selected portion of the display indicia at a first display-indicia size and the second screen portion for selectably displaying a second selected portion of the display indicia at a second display-indicia size, the first and second selected portions, respectively, having an overlapping display indicia element; and

10 a user display screen manager adapted to receive indications of the display indicia to be visually displayed, said user display screen manager for selecting which part of the display indicia to comprise the first selected portion displayed at the first screen portion of said display screen and which part of the display indicia to comprise the second selected portion displayed at the second screen portion and to manage display of the first and second selected
15 portions, respectively, at respective ones of the first and second screen portions of said screen display.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the display indicia of which the first selected portion thereof and the second selected portion thereof are selectably displayed on said display
20 screen comprises text data.

3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the first selected portion of the display indicia, when displayed at the first screen portion of said display screen is displayed at a first font size and wherein the second selected portion of the display indicia, when displayed at the second screen portion of said display screen, is displayed at a second font size.

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4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the first font size is smaller than the second font size.

5. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the overlapping display indicia comprises at least one textual character of the text data, the at least one textual character displayed at the first font size at the first screen portion of said display screen and the at least one textual character displayed at the second font size at the second screen portion of said display screen.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said user display screen manager selects display of the at least one textual character at the first screen portion concurrent with display of the at least one textual character at the second screen portion.

7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the text data comprises a sequence of textual characters wherein the at least one textual character comprises a subset of the sequence of textual characters and wherein said user display screen manager selects display of the subset formed of the at least one textual character at the second screen portion and selects display of the subset formed of the at least one textual character together with the at least one additional textual character at the first screen portion of said screen display.

8. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the display indicia of which the first selected portion thereof and the second selected portion thereof are selectably displayed on said display screen comprises non-textual icons.

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9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the first selected portion of the display indicia, when displayed at the first screen portion of said display screen portion of said display screen is displayed at a first icon-size and wherein the second selected portion of the display indicia, when displayed at the second screen portion of said display screen, is displayed at a second icon-size.

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10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the first icon-size is smaller than the second icon-size.

11. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the overlapping display indicia comprises at least one non-textual icon of the non-textual icons, the at least one non-textual icon displayed at the first icon-size at the first screen portion of said display screen and the at least one non-textual icon displayed at the second icon-size at the second screen portion of said display screen.

12. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said user display screen manager successively reselects at successive selection intervals which part of the display indicia to comprise the first selected portion and which part of the display indicia to comprise the second selected portion.

13. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the display indicia comprises a sequence of display indicia, and wherein selections made by said user display screen manager at the successive selection intervals to be displayed at the first screen portion are of successively-adjacent display characters, thereby to create a scrolling effect.

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14. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the user interface further comprises a user actuator actuable by a user, and wherein the successive selection intervals are defined by selected user actuation of the user actuator.

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15. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said display screen comprises a color screen and wherein the overlapping display indicia element is displayed in a common color at both the first screen portion and at the second screen portion of said display screen.

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16. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the overlapping display indicia element of the first selected portion displayed on the first screen portion is identified as overlapping display indicia that also forms at least part of the second selected portion displayed on the second screen portion of said screen display.

17. A method for facilitating viewing of display indicia at a user interface of a portable communication device, said method comprising:

selecting a first part of the display indicia to be displayed at a first screen portion of a display screen;

5 selecting a second part of the display indicia to be displayed at a second screen portion of the display screen, the second part and the first part having an overlapping display indicia element;

displaying the first part of the display indicia at the first screen portion of the display screen, such that when displayed thereat, the first part of the display indicia is of a first
10 size; and

displaying the second part of the display indicia at the second screen portion of the display screen, such that, when displayed thereat, the second part of the display indicia is of a second size.

15 18. The method of claim 17 wherein the second size at which the second part of the display indicia is displayed is larger than the first size at which the first part of the display indicia is displayed.

19. The method of claim 17 comprising the further operation of indicating, in human
20 perceptible form, the overlapping display indicia element of the first part of the display indicia during display of the first selected part during said operation of displaying the first part.

20. The method of claim 17 wherein said operation of displaying the first part and displaying the second part are performed concurrently.